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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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10/720,800

11/24/2003

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01/26/2007

EXAMINER

SIKRI, ANISH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2109

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
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3 MONTHS

01/26/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/720,800

Applicant(s)

HODGES ET AL.

Examiner

Anish Sikri

Art Unit

2112

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/8/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The application numbers in the specification in paragraphs [0002] – [0008] (i.e., XX/XXX,XXX) are objected as the specification does not mention any numbers.

The application numbers need to be provided.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 to 16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kato (US 2002/0112060 A1).

Consider Claim 1, Kato clearly discloses the method comprising the steps of: Receiving a request for data, the request for data originating from a client communication device (Kato, Page 2, paragraph [0022]). It shows the unit requests the path information for the transfer route from the nodes.

Kato also discloses the step of assessing in real-time an availability of network routing to fulfill the request (Kato, Page 5, paragraph [0073]). It shows the network availability based on predetermined conditions and the network congestion state. It sends out congestion avoiding packet and having a program to reduce its congestion state. This allows it to determine the real-time availability of the network.

Kato also discloses the step of assessing in real-time an availability of network bandwidth to fulfill the request (Kato, Page 11, paragraph [0187]). Kato shows the

Art Unit: 2112

assessment of real-time network availability with the use of QOS. It allows it to monitor the QOS queue table, bandwidth, amount of transmission, delay in passage of packets etc.

Kato also discloses the step of ascertaining a preferred scenario of segmentation, dispersion, and assemblage of electronic data to fulfill the request (Kato, Page 23, paragraph [0356]). It shows that the packets are made up of plurality of packets, and it combines two or more packets to become as one single packet and it also can divide a single packet into plurality of packets to send the divided packets out.

Kato also discloses the step of communicating to the client communications device the electronic data fulfilling the request, the electronic data formatted according to the preferred scenario (Kato, Page 12, paragraph [0197]). It shows by sending out a completion signal and receiving a notification of receipt of packet transfers to indicate the fulfillment of electronic data.

Consider Claim 2, Kato clearly discloses the step of reserving a routing within a network, the reserved routing identified in the preferred scenario. (Kato, Page 33, claim 4). It shows the unit gathers route information before transmitting signals.

Consider Claim 3, Kato clearly discloses the steps which show the unit receiving a first data stream at a computer, the first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a packet protocol; segmenting the first data stream into segments according to a Service Level Agreement, the Service Level Agreement being

an agreement defining parameters for communications service for the subscriber;
dispersing at least one segment via a network for a subsequent processing service;
receiving a result of the processing service; assembling a second data stream, the
second data stream comprising at least one of i) the result of the processing service and
ii) another segment; and communicating the second data stream via the network.

(Kato, Page 4, paragraphs [0067], [0068], [0069]).

Consider Claim 4, Kato clearly shows the step of providing an assertion to a communications service provider, the assertion indicating that the Service Level Agreement was satisfied (Kato, Page 35, claim 44). It shows by having a program to manage said SLA processing and check as to whether predetermined service is maintained in accordance with said SLA already agreed in advance between said network manager and a user.

Consider Claim 5, Kato clearly shows the method in which the assertion is certified to reduce the incidence of fraudulent assertions (Kato, Page 25-26, paragraph [0407]). Kato shows one type of scenario, as there could many types of scenarios related to the invention, which can be used to reduce fraudulent assertions by collecting quality of data by the device and the SLA.

Consider Claim 6, Kato clearly shows the method in which the assertion is provided by the subscriber (Kato, Page 25-26, paragraph [0407]).

Consider Claim 7, Kato clearly shows the method in which the step of assessing in real-time an availability of network routing to meet the Service Level Agreement (Kato, Page 35, claim 45, claim 46 and Page 5, paragraphs [0083-0084]).

Consider Claim 8, Kato clearly shows the method in which the step of assessing in real-time an availability of network bandwidth to meet the Service Level Agreement (Kato, Page 35, claim 50 and claim 51).

Consider Claim 9, Kato clearly shows the method in which the step of receiving a request for data, the request for data originating from a client communications device, and wherein second data stream fulfills the request for the data (Kato, Page 4, paragraphs [0067], [0068], [0069]).

Consider Claim 10, Kato clearly shows the method in which the step of communicating the second data stream to a client communications device (Kato, Page 4, paragraphs [0067], [0068], [0069]).

Consider Claim 11, Kato clearly shows the method in which the step of assembling the second data stream comprises assembling the second data stream according to the Service Level Agreement (Kato, Page 35, claim 46).

Consider Claim 12, Kato clearly shows the method in which the step of communicating the second data stream comprises communicating the second data stream according to the Service Level Agreement (Kato, Page 35, claim 46).

Consider Claim 13, Kato clearly shows the method in which the step of processing a segment according to the Service Level Agreement (Kato, Page 35, claim 46).

Consider Claim 14, Kato clearly shows the method in which the step of ascertaining a preferred scenario of segmentation, dispersion, and assemblage of electronic data (Kato, Page 35, claim 46, and Page 12, paragraph [0197]).

Consider Claim 15, Kato clearly shows the system, comprising: a Analysis Module stored in a memory device, the Analysis Module receiving a first data stream at a computer, the first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a packet protocol, the Analysis Module segmenting the first data stream into segments according to a Service Level Agreement, the Service Level Agreement being an agreement defining parameters for communications service for the subscriber, the Analysis Module dispersing at least one segment via a network for a subsequent processing service, the Analysis Module receiving a result of the processing service, the Analysis Module assembling a second data stream, the second data stream comprising at least one of i) the result of the processing service and ii) another segment, the

Art Unit: 2112

Analysis Module communicating the second data stream via the network; and a processor communicating with the memory device (Kato, Page 2, paragraph [0022], Page 5, paragraph [0073], Page 11, paragraph [0187] and Page 4, paragraphs [0067], [0067], [0068]).

Consider Claim 16, Kato clearly shows that it is a computer program product, comprising: a computer-readable medium; and a Analysis Module stored on the computer-readable medium, the Analysis Module receiving a first data stream at a computer, the first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a packet protocol, the Analysis Module segmenting the first data stream into segments according to a Service Level Agreement, the Service Level Agreement being an agreement defining parameters for communications service for the subscriber, the Analysis Module dispersing at least one segment via a network for a subsequent processing service, the Analysis Module receiving a result of the processing service, the Analysis Module assembling a second data stream, the second data stream comprising at least one of i) the result of the processing service and ii) another segment, the Analysis Module communicating the second data stream via the network (Kato, Page 2, paragraph [0022], Page 5, paragraph [0073], Page 11, paragraph [0187] and Page 4, paragraphs [0067], [0067], [0068]).

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claim 1 provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting over **Claim 1** of copending Application No. 10/720587. This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not yet been patented.

The **claim 1** of **10/720800** recites a method of providing communications services, comprising the steps of: receiving a request for data, the request for data originating from a client communications device; assessing in real-time an availability of network routing to fulfill the request; assessing in real-time an availability of network bandwidth to fulfill the request; ascertaining a preferred scenario of segmentation, dispersion, and assemblage of electronic data to fulfill the request; and communicating to the client communications device the electronic data fulfilling the request, the electronic data formatted according to the preferred scenario. And the **Claim 1** of copending application No. **10/720587** recites a method of providing communications services, comprising the steps of: receiving a request for communications service, the request for communications service originating from a client communications device associated with a user, the request for communications service requesting communications service from a service provider; dynamically assessing in real-time an availability of at least one of i) a communications network operated by the service provider and ii) another communications network operated by another service provider; ascertaining a best-value scenario of segmentation, dispersion, assemblage, and routing of electronic data to fulfill the request, the best-value scenario maximizing

profitability for the service provider; and providing the communications service to fulfill the request, the communications service provided according to the best-value scenario.

In comparison of both the claims, one can see that **claim 1 of 10/720,800** is a broader version of **claim 1 of 10/720,586**. Since, Omission of an element and its function in a combination is an obvious expedient if the remaining elements perform the same functions as before. In re KARLSON (CCPA) 136 USPQ 184 (1963), the claims are not patentably distinct.

Claim 3 provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting over **Claim 1** of copending Application No. 10/720586. This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not yet been patented.

The **claim 3 of 10/720800** recites a method of providing communications services, comprising the steps of: receiving a first data stream at a computer, the first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a packet protocol; segmenting the first data stream into segments according to a Service Level Agreement, the Service Level Agreement being an agreement defining parameters for communications service for the subscriber; dispersing at least one segment via a network for a subsequent processing service; receiving a result of the processing service; assembling a second data stream, the second data stream comprising at least one of i) the result of the processing service and ii) another segment; and communicating the second data stream via the network. And the **Claim 1** of copending Application No. 10/720586 recites a method of providing communications services,

Art Unit: 2112

comprising the steps of: receiving a first data stream at a computer, the first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a packet protocol; segmenting the first data stream into segments according to a set of subscriber-specified rules stored in memory, the set of subscriber-specified rules specified by a subscriber to a subscription service, the set of subscriber-specified rules specifying how electronic data is formatted for the subscriber; dispersing at least one segment via a network for a subsequent processing service; receiving a result of the processing service; assembling a second data stream, the second data stream comprising at least one of i) the result of the processing service and ii) another segment; and communicating the second data stream via the network.

In comparison of both the claims, the subscriber-specified rules specified by a subscriber to a subscription service are stated in the SLA. One can see that **claim 3** of **10/720,800** is a broader version of **claim 1** of **10/720,586**. Since, Omission of an element and its function in a combination is an obvious expedient if the remaining elements perform the same functions as before. In re KARLSON (CCPA) 136 USPQ 184 (1963), the claims are not patentably distinct.

Claim 15 provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting over **Claim 11** of copending Application No. **10/720586**. This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not yet been patented.

The **claim 15** of 10/720800 recites a system which comprises of a Analysis Module stored in a memory device, the Analysis Module receiving a first data stream at a computer, the first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a packet protocol, the Analysis Module segmenting the first data stream into segments according to a Service Level Agreement, the Service Level Agreement being an agreement defining parameters for communications service for the subscriber, the Analysis Module dispersing at least one segment via a network for a subsequent processing service, the Analysis Module receiving a result of the processing service, the Analysis Module assembling a second data stream, the second data stream comprising at least one of i) the result of the processing service and ii) another segment, the Analysis Module communicating the second data stream via the network; and a processor communicating with the memory device. And the **Claim 11** of copending Application No. 10/720586 recites a system which comprises of a Analysis module stored in a memory device, the Analysis module receiving a first data stream at a computer, the first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a packet protocol, the Analysis module segmenting the first data stream into segments according to a set of subscriber-specified rules stored in memory, the set of subscriber-specified rules specified by a subscriber to a subscription service, the set of subscriber-specified rules specifying how electronic data is formatted for the subscriber, the Analysis module dispersing at least one segment via a network for a subsequent processing service, the Analysis module receiving a result of the processing service, the Analysis module assembling a second data stream, the second data stream comprising

Art Unit: 2112

at least one of i) the result of the processing service and ii) another segment, the Analysis module communicating the second data stream via the network; and a processor communicating with the memory device.

In comparison of both the claims, the subscriber-specified rules specified by a subscriber to a subscription service are stated in the SLA. One can see that **claim 15** of **10/720,800** is a broader version of **claim 11** of **10/720,586**. Since, Omission of an element and its function in a combination is an obvious expedient if the remaining elements perform the same functions as before. In re KARLSON (CCPA) 136 USPQ 184 (1963), the claims are not patentably distinct.

Claim 16 provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting over **Claim 12** of copending Application No. 10/720586. This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not yet been patented.

The **claim 16** of 10/720800 recites a computer program product which comprises of a computer-readable medium; and a Analysis Module stored on the computer-readable medium, the Analysis Module receiving a first data stream at a computer, the first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a packet protocol, the Analysis Module segmenting the first data stream into segments according to a Service Level Agreement, the Service Level Agreement being an agreement defining parameters for communications service for the subscriber, the Analysis Module dispersing at least one segment via a network for a subsequent processing service, the Analysis Module receiving a result of the processing service, the Analysis Module

Art Unit: 2112

assembling a second data stream, the second data stream comprising at least one of i)
the result of the processing service and ii) another segment, the Analysis Module
communicating the second data stream via the network. And the **Claim 12** of
copending Application No. **10/720586** recites a computer program product which
comprises of a computer-readable medium; and a Analysis module stored on the
computer-readable medium, the Analysis module receiving a first data stream at a
computer, the first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a
packet protocol, the Analysis module segmenting the first data stream into segments
according to a set of subscriber-specified rules stored in memory, the set of subscriber-
specified rules specified by a subscriber to a subscription service, the set of subscriber-
specified rules specifying how electronic data is formatted for the subscriber, the
Analysis module dispersing at least one'segment via a network for a subsequent
processing service, the Analysis module receiving a result of the processing service, the
Analysis module assembling a second data stream, the second data stream comprising
at least one of i) the result of the processing service and ii) another segment, the
Analysis module communicating the second data stream via the network.

In comparison of both the claims, one can see that **claim 16 of 10/720,800** is a broader version of **claim 12 of 10/720,586**. Since, Omission of an element and its function in a combination is an obvious expedient if the remaining elements perform the same functions as before. In re KARLSON (CCPA) 136 USPQ 184 (1963), the claims are not patentably distinct.

Conclusion

Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to (571) 273-8300 or mailed to:**

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Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Anish Sikri whose telephone number is (571) 270-1783. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Rafael Pérez-Gutiérrez can be reached on (571) 272-7915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you

Art Unit: 2112

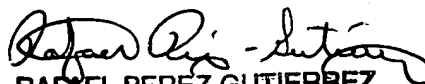
have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 571-272-4100.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Anish Sikri

A.S./a.s.

January 4, 2007


RAFAEL PEREZ-GUTIERREZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
1/19/07